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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT 1. Medical Supply and Production  
2. Miscellaneous Information from  
the Sofia Area

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Medical Supply and Production

1. The Bulgarian pharmaceutical industry, still small and underdeveloped, is inadequate to satisfy the demand for the most essential drugs. A total of only 16 factories and small laboratories, the majority of which are located in Sofia, supply medical goods. Factories are divided into two groups, those which supply the civilian population and those which supply the military. The Army has priority in the supply of medicines and receives all it needs; in urgent and exceptional cases the Army supplies civilians with special preparations which are not on the market.
2. All kinds of drugs, particularly penicillin and sulpha, are in shortage. Penicillin is sold only by a prescription signed by three doctors and sulpha is supplied for children only. The Soviets sent three types of sulpha to Bulgaria, all of which was of poor quality. Aureomycin is not available at all, and the small quantities of streptomycin received from the United States in 1946 have been carefully hoarded. Pyramiden is in shortage; the largest pharmacy in Sofia, which has 25 employees, receives a monthly allocation of one kilogram of the drug. Soviet-manufactured aspirin, which retains a smell of acetic acid and is dissolved with difficulty, is the only drug available in sufficient quantities.
3. Papaverine and cedein are imported from the USSR. At a factory located four kilometers from Sofia, experiments are under way to produce similar drugs from local opium, but by the end of 1951 no success had been achieved. The Sore-Therapeutic Institute has succeeded in producing liquid penicillin which, however, is effective only up to 48 hours.
4. Considerable quantities of raw materials for pharmaceutical production remained from former times, especially imports from Yugoslavia. Raw materials are imported from the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary,

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5. The following factories in Bulgaria produce medical products for civilian use:
    - a. A factory located at No. 24 Washington Street in Sofia, approximately 50 workers, produces non-essential drugs including atropine, glucose, adrenalin, physiological sera, calcium glycericum, atafanyl, spissa (thick) extracts, tinctures, and various syrups;
    - b. A factory located four kilometers from Sofia, approximately 150 workers;
    - c. A laboratory located on Piasl Street in Sofia, approximately 20 workers;
    - d. A laboratory located at No. 5 Angel Kunchev Street in Sofia, approximately 15 workers;
    - e. The Sero-Therapeutic Institute located on General Parensov Street in Sofia, approximately 150 workers, produces drugs and does research; and
    - f. Sodium bicarbonate factories at Varna and Stara Zagora.
  6. The military laboratory, located near the Aleksandŭr Hospital in Sofia, employs 200 specialists, all of whom are military personnel and Party members. The laboratory produces the following drugs:
    - a. Calcium gluconate, approximately 10,000 tablets per week;
    - b. Glucose, approximately 10,000 tablets per week;
    - c. Sodium salicyllate, approximately 10,000 tablets per week;
    - d. Atafan, approximately 5,000 tablets per week;
    - e. Atropinum sulfuricum, approximately 10,000 tablets per week;
    - f. Adrenalin, approximately 10,000 tablets per week;
    - g. Sirolin (sic), approximately 10,000 bottles per week;
    - h. Pertussin, approximately 10,000 bottles per week; and
    - i. Recently the laboratory began producing liver extract in liquid and tablet form.
  7. The military laboratory maintains stores at Panagyurishte, Botevgrad, and an unspecified city in southeastern Bulgaria.
  8. A second military laboratory, also employing only military personnel, is located at Kazanlŭk. The laboratory has begun producing a sulpha drug known as Deseptyl which is of very poor quality and causes prolonged vomiting.
- Miscellaneous Information from the Sofia Area
9. Drinking water for Sofia is supplied by reservoirs at Rila near Samokov. In 1948, work was started on the construction of a reservoir approximately 15 kilometers from Sofia; work was still in progress at the end of 1951. The reservoir is to supply water for industrial needs.
  10. Most of the output of the glycerin and castor oil factory at Kostinbrod (M4249 E2313) is sent to the USSR.

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11. Work of a military nature is being carried out at Samokov, approximately 60 kilometers from Sofia. Considerable numbers of military personnel are stationed there.
12. At Samokov, geological research is under way at a copper mine which has been un-worked for many years.
13. Weekly Party meetings are held in all suburbs of Sofia. After an address by a Party representative, the audience is invited to ask questions. There is a general reluctance to do so because the names and addresses of all questioners, as well as the questions asked, are carefully noted.
14. All working people must attend evening courses on Leninism. Those failing to attend are liable to lose their jobs.
15. Party members receive military training every week and are permitted to keep weapons at home. Party members perform day and night patrol duty in the outskirts of Sofia. They are instructed to listen to conversations held in the streets and to report in writing to their superiors. Party members attend annual courses at a special school at the former French Hospital outside of Sofia.
16. Teachers question pupils as to home conversations and as to whether radios are tuned to the Voice of America.

25X1 1. [ ] Comment: For further information concerning the supply of medical products in Bulgaria, your attention is directed to [ ] 25X1  
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